

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 19, 20, 24, and 25 and the indication of allowability of claims 27-29. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 12, 16, 18, 20, and 27-29 are amended. Claims 27-29 have been amended so as to be rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base and any intervening claims, and are therefore immediately allowable. None of the amended claims include subject matter not already considered by the Examiner; therefore, this amendment should be entered and the claims allowed. Claims 4, 8, 10, and 17 are cancelled without prejudice to their underlying subject matter, which has been incorporated into the respective independent claims. Applicant respectfully requests that the finality of the present rejection be withdrawn since, as the Examiner indicates at page 8 of the Office Action, the grounds for rejection are "new."

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11-16, 18, 21, 22, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,661,866 ("Limkeman et al.") in view of U.S. Patent 6,175,611 ("Melen et al.") and also U.S. Patent 4,677,299 ("Wong"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claims 1, 5, 9, and 16 have each been amended so as to define a radiological imaging apparatus, which comprises "radiation detectors compris[ing] a plurality of semiconductor members, detection signal output electrodes and common potential electrodes, said semiconductor members being arranged in parallel and positioned between said detection signal output electrodes and common potential electrodes," which is indicated in the Office Action at page 7 (¶ 14) as not being taught or suggested in the prior art. As this subject matter was already included in claim 29, for example, there is no need for further searching or examination and the amendment

should be entered. For this reason, each independent claim 1, 5, 9, and 16 and the respective dependent claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 11-15, 18, 21, 22, and 26 are patentable over the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11-16, 18, 21, 22, and 26 should be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 8, 10, 17, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Limkeman et al. in view of Melen et al., Wong, and additionally in view of U.S. Patent 6,448,559 ("Saoudi et al."). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 4, 8, 10, and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice to their underlying subject matter. Claim 23 depends from independent claim 16, which has been discussed above as allowable over the prior art, including the prior art of record (Office Action at ¶ 14). Since claim 16 is patentable, so is claim 23. The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 23 is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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